

**AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the paragraph [0018], with the following rewritten paragraph:**

[0018] Furthermore, in the component-placing apparatus according to the present invention, it is preferable that the hollow holder and the nozzle connecting shaft have an effectively sealed, or preferably a hermetically sealed, airtight chamber formed in a cylindrical space therebetween; that the nozzle connecting shaft have an air passage formed therein for transmitting a pressure medium such as air in the airtight chamber to the suction nozzle; that an air port in communication with the airtight chamber be formed in the outer surface of the hollow holder, and that the air port be connected to a vacuum suction apparatus.